

I have respectfully requested that the report language for the American University in Kosovo (AUK) and the International Trust Fund for Demining and Victims Assistance (ITF) to be included in the Fiscal Year (FY) 2011 State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Appropriations bill. I am requesting report language only, no funding, in this bill.

American University in Kosovo:

AUK is a private not-for-profit institution in Pristina, Kosovo that is dedicated to providing the future business and government leaders of Kosovo and the surrounding region with the skills they need to create independent, democratic, and prosperous societies. Founded in 2003 with 67 students, AUK currently enrolls more than 500 undergraduates in four majors: Economics, Management, Media and Communications, and Public Policy.

The following report language is requested:

*The Committee continues to support programs that help Kosovo to develop the human and institutional resources needed for self-government, particularly programs that help meet the pressing need for the modern administrative and technical skills required to transform Kosovo into a prosperous and democratic state. The Committee encourages the Department of State to consider a proposal to enhance the capacity and make sustainable the School of Public Service at the American University in Kosovo to enable it to better train Kosovars to build and manage their own public services and infrastructure.*

International Trust Fund for Demining and Victims Assistance (ITF):

ITF is a humanitarian, non-profit organization devoted to eradication of the landmines from the ground in the region of South-Eastern Europe and the world. ITF has been a model for donor coordination, transparency, efficiency, and effectiveness and has helped the countries of the region make great strides in making their countries safe from the threat of landmines. Today four of the seven countries in the region are mine-safe, a fifth country is expected to be mine-safe in the next year, and the remaining two countries – Croatia and Bosnia – are on their way to mine-safe status. There is still a need for U.S. funding for demining in the Balkan region for the next few years, but this need is declining and resources can be redirected to other priority security issues in the region and elsewhere.

The following report language is requested:

*The Committee recognizes the significance of the assistance provided by the International Trust Fund for Demining and Victims Assistance (ITF) in helping the countries of southeastern Europe to become mine-safe. ITF has been a model for donor coordination, transparency, efficiency, and effectiveness. As nations in the region are increasingly able to manage the remaining landmine and ordnance removal, the Committee recommends that the State Department identify and find initiatives where*

*ITF's expertise can be utilized to achieve US objectives in the areas of mine action and conventional weapons in southeastern Europe as well as other regions of the world.*